

IX. LAND ACQUISITION

In 1989, the State Legislature designated the Lumber River from county road 1412 (Turnpike Bridge) in Scotland County to the North Carolina/ South Carolina state line a State river and State park. After extensive public input, the *Lumber River State Park Master Plan* was approved in 1994. Land acquisition and park facility needs identified at that time are described in the master plan under Phase One and Phase Two. A concept plan for the third phase - the acquisition and development of canoe camps that would link the 115-mile river - was described in the master plan, but specific sites were not identified.

In the ten years since adoption of the master plan, tremendous progress has been made to acquire lands needed for the park. Lumber River State Park currently consists of 8,008 acres. One of the park goals is to protect lands adjacent to Lumber River along the entire 115-mile stretch of designated river. In addition to acquisition of lands for the state park, protection of the river corridor will be accomplished with the help of local governments and other organizations such as the Lumber River Conservancy, using a combination of acquisitions, gifts, conservation easements, leases, local government ordinances, and cooperative management agreements. In addition to water quality protection, a number of natural heritage and recreational benefits will be provided by completion of the protection of the river corridor.

Another goal of the park is to protect rare species and high quality examples of natural communities along the river. The North Carolina Natural Heritage Program has identified twelve Significant Natural Heritage Areas adjacent to the stretch of river designated for Lumber River State Park. All twelve sites are slated for protection. Since the original Master Plan, the Division has succeeded in acquiring and protecting much or all of the Bluff Swamp, Princess Anne Swamp, and Net Hole/ Buck Landing Swamp Significant Natural Heritage Areas, and approximately one-half of Big Sandy Ridge.

Several factors are considered in determining whether a piece of property should be included in a protection plan. Properties that contain or buffer rare species, natural communities, high water quality, and natural features are given the highest priority. Data from the Natural Heritage Program, the Division of Water Quality, the Division's identified planned needs, and Division staff surveys of the properties are used as information sources for locating the resources in need of acquisition. Threats to these properties can be development, logging, and sedimentation from upstream development as well as other forms of irreparable damage.

CURRENT ACQUISITION STATUS

The primary focus of the park is the protection of the natural communities, scenic beauty, and water quality of this state and nationally significant river. The objectives for creating the Lumber River State Park are the protection of the unique natural resources and water quality, the

provision of appropriate public recreational use, buffering these resources and visitor activities, and protecting scenic views. With these objectives in mind, the land needs have been reviewed and addressed in a revised acquisition plan for the future protection needs of the Lumber River State Park. Efforts continue to acquire and protect the land in the Upper Lumber River and Lower Lumber River sections already identified in the park's master plan.

FUTURE ACQUISITION NEEDS

Completion of the land acquisition needs identified in the *Lumber River State Park Master Plan* will require an additional 6,022 acres. The first two acquisition priorities are the acreage required for the proposed visitor center and campground development at Pea Ridge, and for the development of permanent park facilities at Chalk Banks. The proposed visitor center at Pea Ridge would supply the needed space for programs, educational exhibits, and office space that would relieve the current overcrowding at Princess Ann. Acquisition is needed at Chalk Banks to resolve right-of-way and access road issues. Other needed acquisition at Chalk Banks will provide land for recreational facility development. The Chalk Banks facilities will help to meet existing recreation demand and provide additional river access for recreation far upstream from existing state facilities. Following those two top priorities, Division will work towards acquiring the areas identified in the upper and lower sections of the river that contain high quality natural areas. These acquisitions protect rare species, water quality and scenic values.

Specific locations of acreage needed to provide publicly- owned rest stops and canoe camps that link the upper and lower sections of the park still need to be identified. The master plan calls for acquisition of approximately 500 acres for corridor protection and for canoe camps and rest stops that link the upper and lower segments of the river. Land acquired for such sites will facilitate use of the river for multi-day trips. Public camping and/ or rest sites are needed on the river approximately every ten miles.

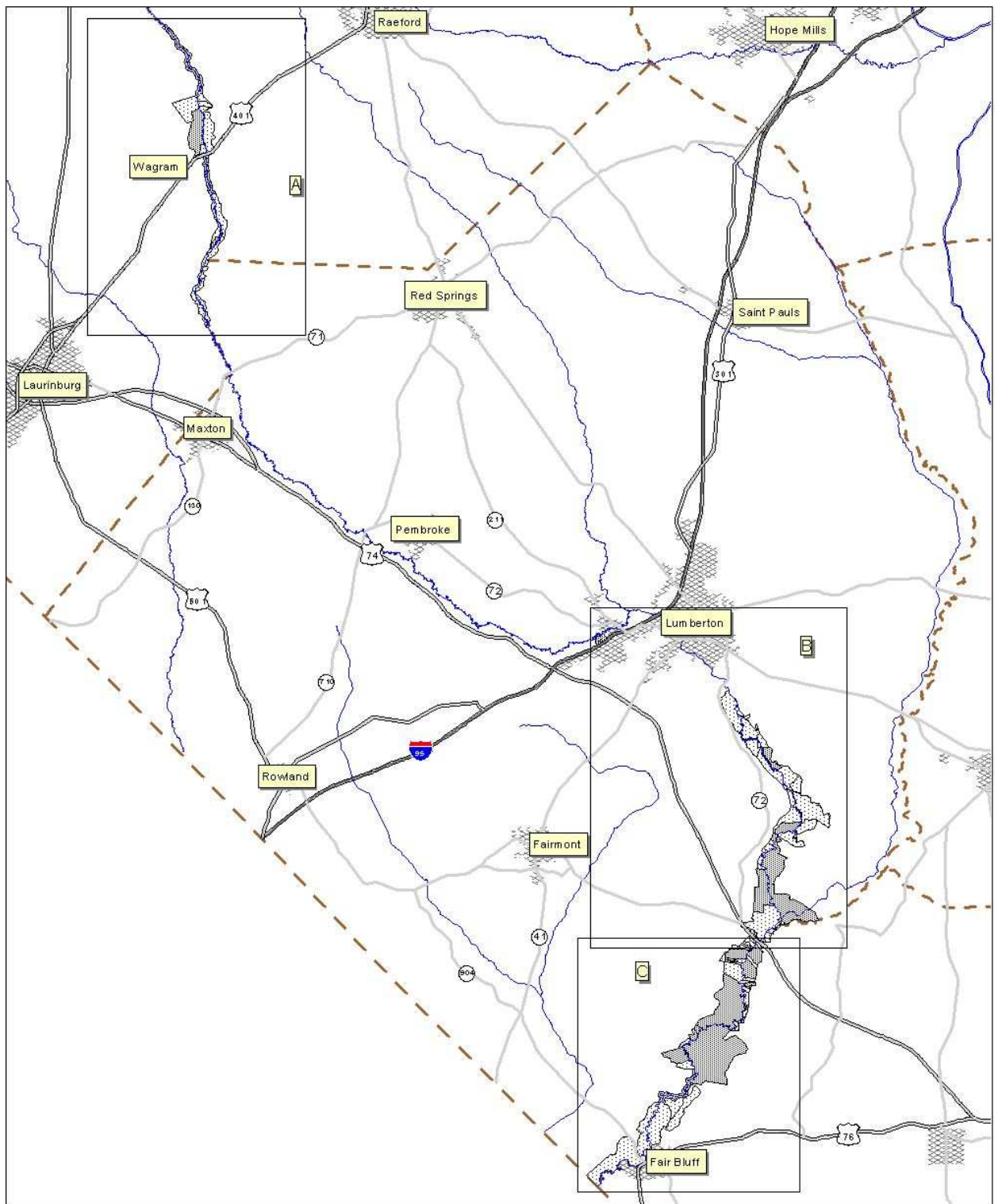
The Lumber River Conservancy currently holds title to a number of properties along the river and its tributaries and has expressed an interest in turning these over to the state to be included in Lumber River State Park. The park superintendent and land acquisition staff will meet with the Conservancy to determine what parcels are appropriate for additions to the park and then work with the Conservancy to transfer title for those properties.

During development of this general management plan, Lumber River State Park staff and other division staff identified land acquisition needs in addition to those identified in the master plan. Acquisition of these lands would extend the park upstream from State Road 2121 towards Lumberton and also below the Town of Fair Bluff, including land for a rest stop/ canoe camp. Current land acquisition needs at Lumber River State Park are shown in the following acquisition summary table and on the land acquisition maps that follow the table.

ACQUISITION SUMMARY TABLE

Current size of the park (October 2003)		8,008 acres
Current planned needs:		
Upper Lumber River	2,589	
Lower Lumber River	<u>8,378</u>	
Total planned needs		<u>10,967</u>
Planned size of the park		18,975 acres

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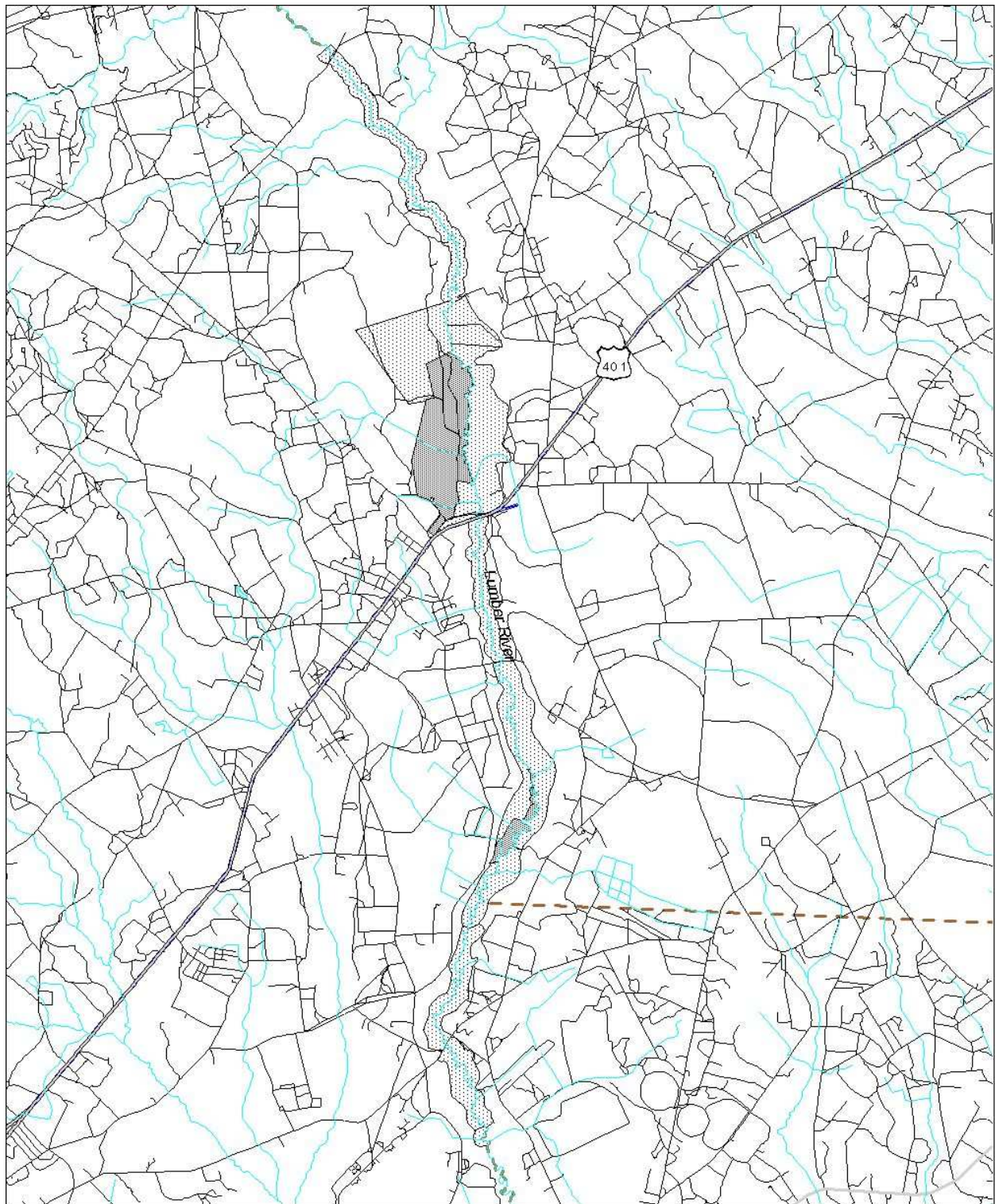
Lumber River
State Park

State Park
Future Need



0 2 4 6 8 Miles



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June 2004



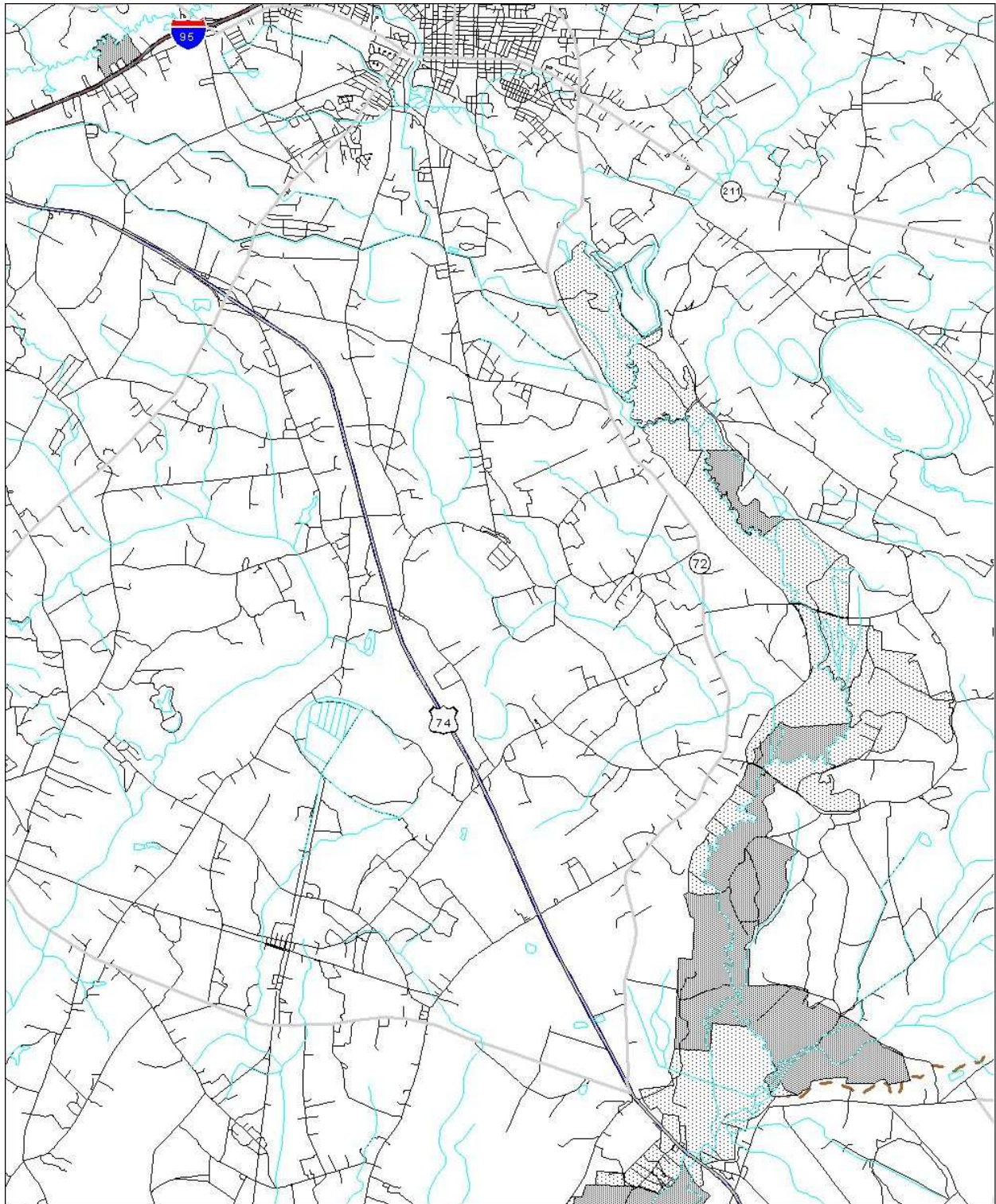
Lumber River
State Park
A: Upper Section

 State Park
 Future Need



0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles



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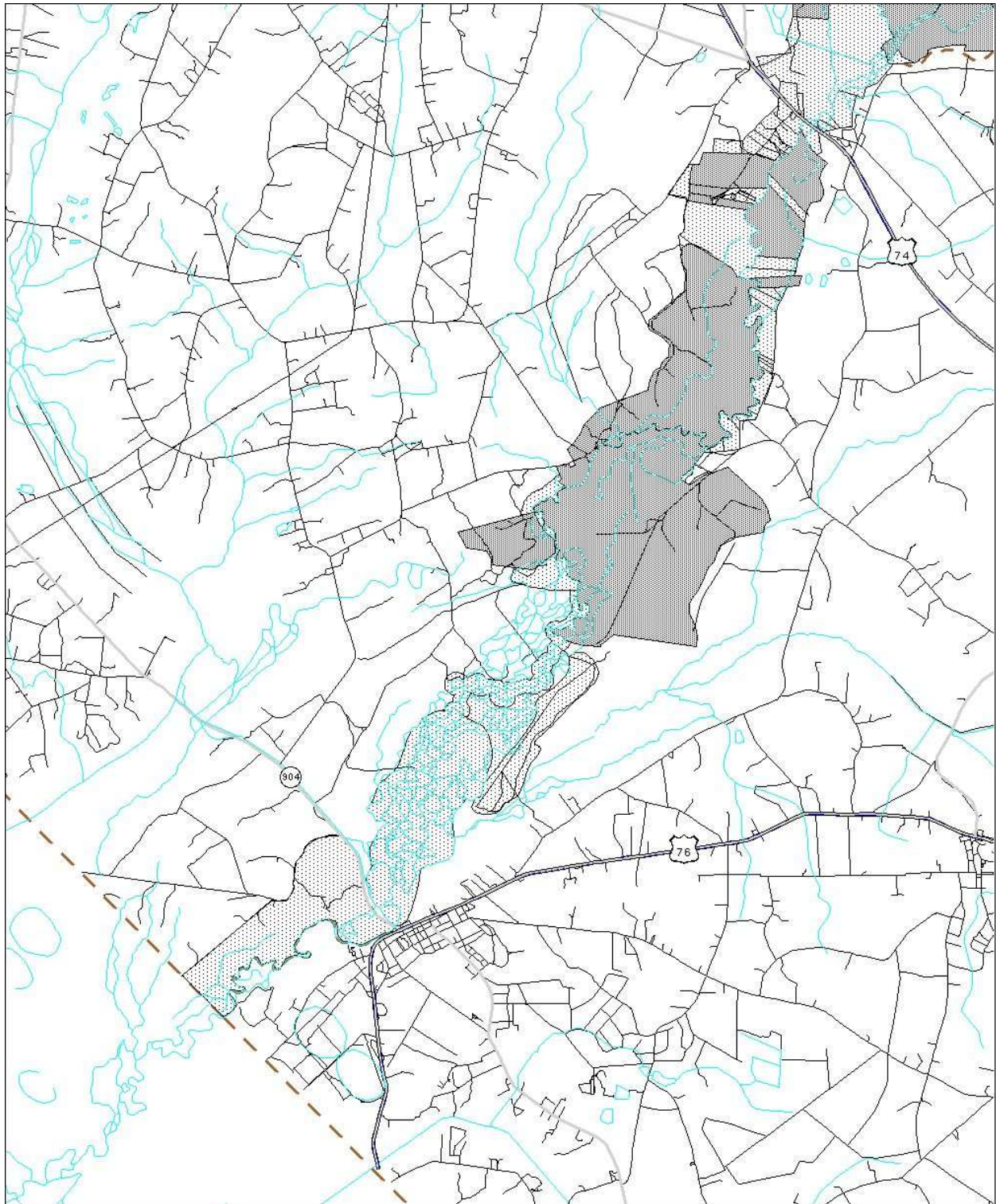
Lumber River
State Park
B: Lower Section
North

 State Park
 Future Need

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles



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Lumber River
State Park
C: Lower Section
South

 State Park
 Future Need

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles



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